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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Mitsuru TAKAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2621

Appln. No. : 10/084,177

Examiner: AKHAVANNIK

Filed : February 28, 2002

Confirmation No.: 4788

For : NEXT PROCESS-DETERMINING METHOD, INSPECTING METHOD
AND INSPECTING APPARATUS**STATUS REQUEST**

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop _____
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

Applicants respectfully requests notification as to the status and a date as to when an Office Action will be issued in the above-identified patent application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitsuru TAKAI et al.



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September 1, 2005
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